

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components, at least one of said components being a thermoplastic sealing or connecting member obtained by molding a thermoplastic elastomeric material, at least one other component being a non-sealing member, said permanent connection being located at a desired location of said non-sealing member, comprising:
  - a. stretching said sealing or connecting member;
  - b. relaxing said stretched member from step (a) at ambient temperature;
  - c. placing said member from step (b) at the desired location on said non-sealing member; and
  - d. exposing said members from step (c) to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting temperature of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.
2. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.
3. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic sealing or connecting component for the fashioning of a permanent connection, obtained by a process comprising:
  - a. molding the component from a thermoplastic elastomeric material;
  - b. stretching the component;
  - c. relaxing the component at ambient temperature.
4. (Previously presented) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

5. (Previously presented) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components with at least one thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, and at least one non-sealing member, comprising:
  - a. placing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection on said non-sealing member; and
  - b. exposing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.
6. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, selected from body plugs, gasket rings, sealing rings, or shrink-on sleeveings.
7. (Previously presented) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 1.
8. (Previously presented) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components, with at least one thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 4, and at least one non-sealing member, comprising:
  - a. placing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection on said non-sealing member;
  - b. exposing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.
10. (Previously presented) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 3.
11. (Previously presented) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 5.

12. (Previously presented) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 8.
13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material comprises a block copolymer comprising hard blocks, wherein said hard blocks comprise polyurethane, polyester or polyamide.
14. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic sealing or connecting member according to claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material comprises a block copolymer comprising hard blocks, wherein said hard blocks comprise polyurethane, polyester or polyamide.
15. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, which is a body plug.
16. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, selected which is a gasket ring.
17. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, which is a sealing ring.
18. (Previously presented) An object according to claim 12, wherein the fashioned permanent connection is a body plug, gasket ring, sealing ring, or shrink-on sleeving.
19. (Previously presented) An object according to claim 12, wherein the fashioned permanent connection is a body plug, gasket ring or sealing ring.